

Senate Natural Resources Committee members, my name is Jamie Thompson a seventeen year old highschool student from Antler ND. I am here today testifying in favor of HB1151.

I was introduced to the sport of archery at an early age at our local bow club. After several years of becoming proficient my dad and brothers introduced me to the sport of bow hunting. We use baiting as a tool to position the deer for a clean ethical shot at a known yardage I am proficient at as an archer. That is the simple mechanics of bow hunting that has led to two successful archery hunts over the years, but the sport of bow hunting is so much more.

Being part of the archery community growing up has been a huge part of my life. I have learned that with one arrow you can take the life of an animal. With that being said, becoming a proficient archer was a top priority of mine. As the years went by I was finally old enough and ready to invest in a youth bow tag, which came with a lot of responsibilities. Not only trying to find the time I could put into sitting in the stand, but to practice and stay adept at shooting my bow. As the years went on and I slowly got more involved in school activities and sports, I soon came to realize that finding the time would be difficult. Every moment I had that was not filled with school activities or sports I found myself sitting in the archery stand waiting and hoping I could harvest a deer that time. Bow hunting takes a lot of time and patience, but time for me was not at the essence. I was very limited on when I would be able to sit for a deer. A person only has so much time to shoot a deer before the season comes to an end. Archery season goes into the cold, cold temperatures of the year; therefore, getting a good shot off on a deer can lead to more than just a short walk to find the deer. It can help protect the people from being out in the freezing temperatures for too long. Baiting has helped us to get the correct position of the deer to get a proficient shot off on a deer. Getting a good shot off on the deer also means the deer does not suffer from having an arrow inside of them and not dying. Baiting is used to help an archer have a successful bow season with a happy ending.

Bow hunting to me is so much more than just shooting a deer. It allows me to spend time and make memories with my family. Over the years the memories I have made with my friends and family while bow hunting have been some of the greatest memories I have. From sitting in the stand playing card games with my dad waiting for the deer to come in; to uncontrollable giggling with a friend even though you are supposed to be quiet while hunting. For me it has allowed me to see the happiness it brings to not only me, but to my family. After I got a good shot off at my deer this year and heard my dad say "Nice shot kid, you got him" then giving me a fist bump gave me the biggest feeling of happiness ever. Then hearing the voice of a couple of proud brothers as they got the call saying "Your sister got her buck" was something I will never forget.

The last thing I would like to say is that bow hunting allows a person to enjoy the peacefulness that nature brings. Seeing the wind blow through the field and the trees. Seeing the birds fly around singing their songs. Seeing the deer wander the land finding food and relaxing in the sunshine. Taking in the beauty of nature allows people to take a deep breath and enjoy the time we all have on this earth. To me bow hunting is so much more than just harvesting a deer. It is a whole life lesson waiting to be taught through generations to come.

In closing I would encourage a yes vote on HB1151.

Thank you, Jamie Thompson